

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Sandi Snyder, President by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Council members William F. Sexton and Paul Childress, also present were Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Public Works Director Karl Bauer and Park Superintendent, James Miller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Childress made the motion to approve the April 11, 2006 minutes as amended. Sexton made the second. Vote 3-0 The following were the amended minute's excerpts. 1. Granat made the motion to rescind Ordinance 2005-07 and have first reading of Ordinance 2006-06. Sexton made the second. Vote 5-0 2. Childress and Granat are interviewing applicants for Building Commissioner. 3. Snyder asked Hollenbeck is it ok to change the Police Commission from 5 to 3 in mid-stream of the year? Hollenbeck was to check the options. This was tabled until next meeting. Childress asked the consensus of the Council to reduce the Police Commission to 3 and the consensus was yes 5-0. 4. Discussion of Sewer Treatment Options. Snyder wanted it changed to read that she read a statement instead of a letter.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Sexton made the motion to approve claims in the amount of \$182,053.83 and Childress made the second. Vote 3-0.

PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR.

- Becky Maranto 1294 Port Cove Drive, President of the Porter Cove Homeowners Association, has had several complaints of **Regional Industries**, the Town's waste hauler, she stated that the quality of their work is very poor and urged the Council not to renew their contract for next year.
- Pam Saffran 1318 Admiral Drive, had complaints also of **Regional Industries**, she was given conflicting information on how many bags of yard waste would be picked up. She had left numerous bags for pick-up and some were torn open and left on the ground.

Sexton also stated that he receives complaints about **Regional Industries**. He told Jeff Jones, **Regional Industries** representative that was in the audience, that the crews are rude and discourteous to people and Sexton was very disappointed. Jones said that those employees have been warned and if they do not improve they will be replaced. Jones said that leaves are not to be collected by R.I. and that is why they are left. Jones was told to work with Bauer, Public Works Director and get the correct information on the Town's website. Jones and Bauer also were told to come to a consensus on the number of customers that R.I. was billing the Town. Bauer says the number is 1,733 and Jones stated 1804. Snyder stated that it is necessary to get these items correct and taken care of.

- Roy Olsen, 1451 Beam Street, submitted a petition to Spanier for American Legion Post 503 to have a Memorial Day service in Hawthorne Park. Both Spanier and Zathoe Sexton, Park Board President stated that was fine. Childress made the motion to approve and Sexton made the second. Vote 3-0.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

CLERK TREASURER

Pomeroy was absent with Deputy Clerk Karen Spanier filling in.

- Excess Levy Update. Karl Cender advised the Council that they would have to advertise for a Public Hearing at next meeting (May 9th) for the unfunded \$63,000 portion of the \$233,000. appeal to raise property taxes for the 2006 year. Cender said that the \$169,000 surplus that was advertised last year most likely will be approved by the DLGF without a hearing.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Spanier has received a permit from the State Park Little League to have a parade on Saturday to the Little League field. Childress made the motion to approve with Sexton making the second. Vote 3-0

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Nothing to report

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- Bauer said that the last rainfall had caused a problem at Triangle and 23rd Sts. H2O had to be called out but everything is running fine now.
- The Street Dept. has finished counting homes in Porter and has a total of 1733.
- The Public Works Department will be helping the Girl Scouts on May 13th for Coastal clean up.
- The Porter Beach Survey is moving along and should be completed by June 1st.
- Brush and leaves need to be left at the curb. Grass clippings and yard waste cannot go into RI's trash cans.
- The Specs and Standards manual will be reviewed at the next TAC meeting.
- The Public Works will be participating in the Rebuilding Together this weekend. Four employees have volunteered to help. Sexton made a motion to waive the fees and permits and Childress made the second. Vote 3-0

PARK DEPARTMENT

- ❖ James Miller said that the Community Center at Hawthorne Park had the wooden floors renovated by Hultman Flooring at the cost of \$430.00. The renovation cycle has been every other year.

- ❖ Trimming and chipping continues at Lake Charles and Dune Meadows. Miller said that these are ongoing projects. He also hopes that the Park's budget problems are resolved so that playground equipment can be installed at Dune Meadows this year.
- ❖ The Community Center landscaping is in progress and thanked Wade and Rita Newman for their generosity for donating 2 Dwarf Alberta Spruce shrubs.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Sexton made a motion to approve 8 new contractors and Childress made the second. Vote 3-0. Childress advised the Council that there are 3 major plans for the TAC members to review. Snyder stated that Bill Lewis has come back as Building Inspector and Childress and Granat will interview for Commissioner.

OLD BUSINESS

- ✓ **Discussion to reduce Police Commission.** Snyder feels that the Council should not change in mid-stream of the year. Childress asked Attorney Lyp if the Council would need to change the Ordinance. Lyp said yes and the Council has almost "carte blanche" to removed Police Commissioners at will. Sexton made a motion to table until next meeting. Motion died for lack of a second. Childress made a motion to have Lyp draft an ordinance for consideration to reduce the Metropolitan Police Commission from 5 members to 3 members at the end of the year when 2 terms expire. Sexton made the second. Vote 3-0
- ✓ **Midnight Parade discussion.** Snyder stated that she does not think it is a good idea for the Town to be liable for this parade. Childress and Sexton both agreed. Sexton stated that Mike Smith of Giggles Pizza asked if he could block Lincoln Street to have a street dance and alcohol would be served prior to the parade and then open Lincoln Street as parade time nears. Childress said he had no problem with it as long as there is no alcohol on the streets for the parade. He also stated that the Village Tavern has been permitted to close Lincoln Street in the past for a street dance. Jennifer Klug, 302 Lincoln Street, told the Council to check with Indiana Excise Police about alcohol sales for a street dance. Also, Zathoe Sexton, 352 Waverly Road, said with the Town's financial problems that they cannot afford to put the additional burdens on town departments if the local businesses that benefit won't participate. Childress made the motion not to sponsor the parade and Sexton made the second. Vote 3-0
- ✓ **Animal Control Ordinance 2006-06.** Snyder did the second reading by title only.
- ✓ **Addendum to Violation's Ordinance 2006-07.** Sexton made the motion to number and have 1st reading and amended to include various penalties for the Animal Control Ordinance 2006-06 and Sign Ordinance with Childress making the second. Vote 3-0

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discuss Code Enforcement Officer.** The Council is looking into hiring a Code Enforcement Officer in place of a Building Commissioner. Lyp will look into and adjust the Violation Ordinance to include fines that the Enforcement Officer could issue citations for beach parking plus building problems.
- **Indiana American Contract.** Childress made the motion to proceed moving forward with the contract after the Attorney reviews and works out any discrepancies effective 10/01/2006, Sexton made the second. Vote 2-1 with Snyder voting nay that she preferred to have Granat and Boothe also participate in discussion and that the Town is still in negotiations with Chesterton over sewer rate. Motion failed.
- **Beach Parking Ordinance.** The Council decided to wait until Granat could review one more time.
- **National Park Road Agreement.** Sexton made the motion to approve the agreement after Hollenbeck and Bauer review confirmation of roads with Childress making the second. Vote 3-0.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Snyder appointed Becky Maranto of Porter Cove to serve on the Park Board to fill the unexpired term of Sherrill Newman who resigned.

Sexton made the motion to adjourn and Childress made the second. Vote 3-0.

Dated this _____ day of May, 2006.

Sandi Snyder, President

William F. Sexton

Paul Childress

ATTEST: _____
Karen Spanier, Deputy Clerk